

Contact: Jennifer Lawson (406) 444-5228

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For Immediate Release

**Citizens Invited to Participate in Community Emergency Response Team Training**

Free! Training Requires 20-hour Course Completion over 3 Saturdays in Helena

[ready.mt.gov](http://ready.mt.gov)

Helena – The Governor's Office of Community Service ([serve.mt.gov](http://serve.mt.gov)) announced today that a free CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training will be available to citizens starting on Saturday, March 6 at the UM – Helena College of Technology.

The goal of the CERT training is for experienced instructors to train members of the community in basic emergency preparedness and response skills so they can better help themselves and others in an emergency.

"95% of all immediate emergency response is conducted by bystanders or the victims, themselves," said Karen Semple, Tri-County CERT Coordinator. "CERT teaches our citizens how to respond safely and help others without putting themselves at risk."

CERT training is a function of Montana Citizen Corps ([ready.mt.gov](http://ready.mt.gov)), an outreach program supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency, and administered by the Governor's Office of Community Service.

"As citizens, we're all part of an informal citizen corps." said Jan Lombardi, Director of the Governor's Office of Community Service. "CERT training is an opportunity for our everyday citizens to formalize their commitment to helping others in their community."

CERT includes instruction and hands-on training in the following subjects: disaster preparedness, how to recognize life-threatening conditions, basic first aid, disaster medical operations, fire safety, hazardous materials, using safe techniques for debris removal and victim extrication, understanding basic incident stress management. Then through drills you get to practice what you have learned in this hands-on educational training.

Montana citizens are invited to attend and are encouraged to contact the Governor's Office of Community Service by March 3<sup>rd</sup> to sign up at: (406) 444-1718 or [lbrown@mt.gov](mailto:lbrown@mt.gov).

For more information, visit the website, [ready.mt.gov](http://ready.mt.gov) and click on Montana Citizen Corps.

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**WHAT:** CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training in basic emergency preparedness and response skills.

**WHO:** Citizens who want to be better prepared for emergencies.

**WHERE:** U of M – Helena College of Technology

1115 North Roberts Street – Room 125

Helena, MT 59601

**WHEN:** Call or Email Lorri Brown by Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> to sign up.

CERT Trainings: Saturday, March 6 (8am – 5:30pm)

Saturday, March 13 (8am – 5:30pm)

Saturday, March 20 (8am – 12:30pm)

\*Must attend all three sessions to receive a completion certificate.

**Contact:** Lorri Brown, Citizen Corps Training Manager, Governor's Office of Community Service at (406) 444-1718 or [lbrown@mt.gov](mailto:lbrown@mt.gov)

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